

Mr. Chairman & members of the committee
I represent myself as a citizen - email
Thank you for permitting me to speak on
HB 252. My name is Marleena Harper & live in Shepherd
Untitled

I am a mother of a woman who is gay. My daughter is in her 40's, is an educated woman with a phd. She teaches college at a school in Arizona. I am speaking here today because I want to see HB 252 amendment added to the Montana human right act. I want the descrimation toward others who are different in their sexual orientation ended. Discrimination is a painful and cruel behavior towards people.

EXHIBIT 25
DATE 2/16/09
HB 252

Several years ago I received a phone call from my daughter telling me about an act of descrimation toward her. She had had a sutdent in one of her classes at med semester decide to change classes because her teacher (my daughter) was a lesbian. My daughters supervisor met with the youg woman and her mother and favored the class change. My daughter was terribly upset and as a mother I could feel her pain.

After the phone call ended I sat and cried. I felt like I had been stabled in the heart with a knife. It was at this moment my decision to be an advocate for my daughter and others whose sexual orientation was different was cemented and this is why I am here. My daughter did not know that she had rights as an employee of that school. I contacted the president of the collage and ended up speaking with a dean.

I went into action. Several days later I received a call from my daughter which started out: Mother what have you done? I have been in meetings with the Dean, my supervisor and others Please let me fight my own battles" To which I replied. I am your mother and you were descrimated against and your have rights and protection and it should not have happened. They are lucky they did not get sued. And added, look at

it this way, Youu are no longer a name on a faculty list. They know who you are. It could be a benefit.

I did promise not to interfere again, but as parents in this room know, when an injustice is done we respond. The incident at the collage will probably never happen again because everyone knows the rules and right of the employees as it should be. My daughter learned that she must fight for her rights not to be discouraged as a human being. Her supervisor helped perpetuate descrimation again people of different of sexual orientation.

Montana has an opportunity to rid itself of descrimation against

because their

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people of ~~different~~ sexual orientation. Discrimination is painful and cruel. It hurts people, their families and our society. It is morally wrong to allow or permit discrimination against a group of people to continue when it can be stopped. I urge Montana's legislators to vote yes on this amendment to Montana Human Rights and create equality for all.

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Marleena Harper
6806 Kirby Rd
Shepherd, MT
59079